Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for restricting resources consumed by [[a]] ghost ~~agent~~ agents within a domain of a grid computing environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a host, wherein the host is a software object operating within the grid environment and movable from one grid to another grid within the grid environment;

associating a ghost agent with the host, wherein the ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the host, wherein the ghost agent follows the movement of the associated host;

registering ~~within a domain of a grid environment a~~ the ghost agent with a ghost registry of the domain, wherein the ghost agent is de-registered when the ghost agent leaves the domain ~~within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move from said grid to another grid of said grid environment in response to moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid~~;

responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy ~~for said domain~~ to said ghost agent from the ghost registry, wherein the containment policy is dynamically altered when a ghost agent is registered or de-registered with the ghost registry and a update of the containment policy is broadcasted to registered ghost agents;

determining a resource utilization value for the ghost agent;

comparing the resource utilization value to a limit established by the containment policy; and

if said limit is exceeded, preventing the ghost agent from executing at least one

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operation

~~configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy; and~~

~~utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available~~

~~to said ghost agent.~~

2.   (Cancelled) .

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said preventing step further comprises the steps of:

deactivating said ghost agent;

starting an idle timer for said ghost agent; and

when said idle timer exceeds a time threshold, activating said ghost agent.

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Cancelled).

7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Cancelled).

10.   (Currently Amended) A system for restricting resources consumed by [[a]] ghost ~~agent~~ agents within ~~one or more domains~~ a domain of a grid environment, the system

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comprising:

a host, wherein the host is a software object operating within the grid environment and movable from one grid to another grid within the grid environment;

a ghost agent associated with the host, wherein the ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the host, wherein the ghost agent follows the movement of the associated host;

means for registering the ghost agent with a ghost registry of the domain, wherein the ghost agent is de-registered when the ghost agent leaves the domain;

means for conveying, responsive to the registering, a containment policy to the ghost agent from the ghost registry, wherein the containment policy is dynamically altered when a ghost agent is registered or de-registered with the ghost registry and a update of the containment policy is broadcasted to registered ghost agents;

means for determining a resource utilization value for the ghost agent;

means for comparing the resource utilization value to a limit established by the containment policy; and

means for, preventing the ghost agent from executing at least one operation, if the limit is exceeded

~~at least one computing resource configured to manage a ghost registry disposed within a domain of a grid environment and at least one ghost agent disposed within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with said domain, wherein said ghost registry comprises a containment policy for said domain, wherein said at least one ghost agent is configured to move from said grid to another grid within said grid environment in response to moving an associated host from said grid to another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid, and wherein said ghost agents adhere to said containment policy when disposed within said domain.~~

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11.   (Cancelled).

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Cancelled).

15.   (Cancelled).

16.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~computer-readable~~ machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform a method for restricting resources consumed by ghost agents within a domain of a grid computing environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a host, wherein the host is a software object operating within the grid environment and movable from one grid to another grid within the grid environment;

associating a ghost agent with the host, wherein the ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the host, wherein the ghost agent follows the movement of the associated host;

registering ~~within a domain of a grid environment a~~ the ghost agent with a ghost registry of the domain, wherein the ghost agent is de-registered when the ghost agent leaves the domain ~~within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move from said grid to another grid of said grid environment in response to moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid;~~

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responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy ~~for said domain~~ to said ghost agent <u>from the ghost registry, wherein the containment policy is dynamically altered when a ghost agent is registered or de-registered with the ghost registry and a update of the containment policy is broadcasted to registered ghost agents</u>;

<u>determining a resource utilization value for the ghost agent;</u>

<u>comparing the resource utilization value to a limit established by the containment policy; and</u>

<u>if said limit is exceeded, preventing the ghost agent from executing at least one operation</u>

~~configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy; and~~

~~utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available to said ghost agent.~~

17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable~~ <u>machine-readable</u> storage of claim [[17]] <u>16</u>, wherein said preventing step further comprises the steps of:

deactivating said ghost agent;

starting an idle timer for said ghost agent; and

when said idle timer exceeds a time threshold, activating said ghost agent.

19.   (Cancelled).

20.   (Cancelled).

21.   (Cancelled).

22.   (Cancelled).

23.   (Cancelled).

24.   (Cancelled).

25.   (Currently Amended)   A system for restricting resources consumed by a ghost agent comprising:

a processing element of a computing resource within a grid environment, wherein the processing element is associated with a domain of the grid environment, and wherein the processing element is configured for:

identifying a host, wherein the host is a software object operating within the grid environment and movable from one grid to another grid within the grid environment;

associating a ghost agent with the host, wherein the ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the host, wherein the ghost agent follows the movement of the associated host;

registering within a domain of a grid environment a the ghost agent with a ghost registry of the domain, wherein the ghost agent is de-registered when the ghost agent leaves the domain within a portion of a grid of said grid environment associated with the domain, wherein said ghost agent is configured to move from said grid to another grid of said grid environment in response to moving an associated host from said grid to said another grid, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of the associated host within said grid;

responsive to said registering, conveying a containment policy for said domain to said ghost agent from the ghost registry, wherein the containment policy is dynamically altered when a ghost agent is registered or de-registered with the ghost registry and a update of the containment policy is broadcasted to registered ghost agents;

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determining a resource utilization value for the ghost agent;

comparing the resource utilization value to a limit established by the containment policy; and

if said limit is exceeded, preventing the ghost agent from executing at least one operation

~~configuring said ghost agent according to said received containment policy; and~~

~~utilizing said containment policy of said ghost agent to restrict resources available to said ghost agent.~~

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